

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
OCTOBER 26, 2001

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, October 26, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Brenda Collins, Sara Fox, Donald Green, Joanna Heidel, Henry Hudspeth, George Walker, and Lawrence Warren.

Members absent: Veldore Heidelberg, Jimmy Murphy, and David Marsh.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Ethel Ewing, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Jason Pugh, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Frankie Walton White.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Bill Smith – IHL, Frednia Perkins – Mississippi State Department of Education, Dr. Starkey Morgan – Holmes Community College, and Andy Kanengiser – The Clarion Ledger.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., and all guests present introduced themselves.

PRELIMINARIES

Brenda Collins gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of the September 28, 2001, Board Meeting

Joanna Heidel pointed out that on page 5 under the Finance section of the minutes the Z-1 budget amendment for re-appropriation of Support funds was listed as \$154,707 and should have been \$164,707. Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve the change. Dr. Ray asked that a section of paragraph two on page 3 also be deleted. Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Sara Fox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the deletion.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Sara Fox asked that an item be added to the Finance Report under Other Business. On a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Olon Ray gave a brief report on the Supreme Court Hearing on October 8, 2001.

Dr. Ray distributed copies of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College's FY 2003 Legislative Recommendations (Exhibit A). He stated that extra copies of the publications were available to the Board for distribution.

SBCJC Minutes: October 26, 2001

Dr. Ray announced that Marie Antoon had been appointed to serve as Interim Director of the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television. He stated that the ETV Board and staff are making an effort to do good things for ETV.

Dr. Ray also announced that SBCJC Association Executive Director for Programs, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, had been appointed as the new Mississippi Representative to the ACT Corporation for a three-year term. This position is elected by the membership of the Mississippi ACT Council.

Dr. Evelyn Webb shared with the Board a copy of a handout from IHL reflecting the percentage of 2000-2001 university bachelor's degree graduates that attended community and junior colleges (Exhibit B).

Dr. Ray distributed a copy of information on The University of Mississippi's Luckyday Scholarship announcement (Exhibit C). Up to forty (40) secondary education major scholarships will be awarded to community and junior college transfer students.

Dr. Ray announced that Ethel Ewing, SBCJC Executive Secretary, has taken a position with the Mississippi Library Commission and will be leaving effective today. Mrs. Ewing expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Board during her employment.

Dr. Ray announced the arrival of Baby Boy Heidelberg on October 4, 2001. New mom, Veldore Heidelberg is doing well and told Dr. Ray that the baby has already taken over the household in the short time since his birth.

Dr. Ray informed the Board that he would not be attending the December meeting. He has been asked to travel with a representative group from the Governor's office to Bosnia on December 13 – 16, 2001, to visit with Mississippi National Guardsmen stationed there.

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

Dr. Starkey Morgan reported on items discussed at the October 23, 2001, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College (MACJC) Presidents' meeting.

During the meeting Dr. Morgan polled the Association and found that there are nine current community college presidents that are eligible for retirement. Dr. Morgan is going to have a committee study the tenure of Mississippi's community and junior college presidents.

Dr. Morgan led a discussion concerning the recent article in The Clarion Ledger related to the Mississippi University for Women's proposed expenditure of \$80,000 to \$150,000 for a study to determine why or why not students come to their college. The Association is very concerned that this expenditure of funds was not questioned by The Clarion Ledger editorial staff like the announcement of the community colleges study of the colleges' economic value.

The Association reaffirmed the approval of participating in a study that would provide information on the economic value the colleges add to their districts.

The Association discussed its concern regarding how business would be handled at the State Department of Education's Vocational/Technical Training Department in light of the fact that department director, Bill Blassingame, had suffered a stroke and will be out of the office for an indefinite period of time. Dr. Morgan appointed a committee of four presidents to meet with Dr. Richard Thompson to determine how the workflow will be handled.

The Association received a report on the state's financial position by State Economist, Dr. Phil Pepper. Mrs. Deborah Gilbert discussed possible ramifications of the budget situation for the colleges.

Dr. Scott Elliott gave the Association a brief report on the MACJC History Project.

Dr. Howell Garner gave a report on the MACJC Mississippi Virtual Community College SACS Committee. The Committee chaired by Hubert Yates is working toward completing a plan to provide information to SACS that would lead to accreditation for the MSVCC statewide system.

Dr. Clyde Muse gave a MACJC Legislative Committee report and discussed the schedule for the upcoming regional legislative committee meetings. The regional meetings will be held between October 29 and November 6, 2001.

Joanna Heidel asked Dr. Morgan about the possibility of approaching their local Boards of Supervisors for additional funding at the local level in light of tight budget times. Mrs. Heidel stated that information concerning the diminishing percentage of local funding might be presented to the Supervisors in order to obtain more funds. Dr. Morgan stated that annually each community and junior college president visits with the Supervisors for that purpose.

Workforce Report

George Walker distributed a copy of the MACJC regional legislative committee meetings (Exhibit D). He urged Board members to attend the meetings in their district.

Mr. Walker distributed copies of three articles that appeared in The Clarion Ledger on October 14 and 15, 2001, concerning the IHL-USM Gulf Park Campus situation (Exhibit E). Mr. Walker stated that last year he and Joe Jones visited with Editorial Boards across the state to discuss continuation of workforce funding. In light of comments he received and the success of the meetings, Mr. Walker reported that a schedule is being developed to do the same for this year. Once the schedule is completed Board members will receive notification and he urged them to participate in their districts when possible.

The State Workforce Development Council has suggested that a study be completed on the Workforce Act of 1994. The study would determine how well workforce-training needs are being met and what might be done to meet needs better. In response, SBCJC staff is working on a Request for Proposal for a strategic plan.

SBCJC Minutes: October 26, 2001

Mr. Walker announced that IHL has announced their virtual university.

Mr. Walker stated that the SWDC has reaffirmed its position and will take a leadership role in continuing to work to sustain and increase funding for workforce training for Mississippians.

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher discussed a request from Ingalls to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College to place some of its apprenticeship program on-line. Dr. Ray, Jason Pugh, and Dr. Stonecypher are working out the details of delivering that training over the MSVCC.

Revenue Outlook for FY2002 and FY 2003

Deborah Gilbert discussed the projected revenue collections for FY 2002 and FY 2003. She stated that the year-to-date revenues to the general fund from all sources through September 2001 are 46.6 million dollars short of sine die estimates. By the end of this month's revenue collection period, the Governor may decide to make budget cuts. Mrs. Gilbert stated that in conversation with LBO Analyst, Randy Sanders, no more than a 5% budget cut is estimated. The colleges have already set aside 5% of their budgets in anticipation. She stated that FY 2003 looks much bleaker with possible cuts of 11% to 15% over FY 2002. Also, 16 million dollars from the Budget Contingency Fund appropriated to the SBCJC are non-recurring funds and there is concern on how those one-time funds will be replaced. The Joint Legislative Budget Office built-ins deemed critical for 2003 account for 461.5 million dollars and of that Medicaid accounts for over 197 million. The legislature is researching statutes that require built-ins for possible revision.

Mrs. Gilbert reported that State Economist, Dr. Phil Pepper, had stated in the MACJC meeting, that there might be a revenue shortfall of 150 million dollars by the end of the fiscal year. Mrs. Gilbert also stated that the Working Cash Stabilization Fund is built from "ending cash" balances and due to lack of ending cash any funding not appropriated will be used to fund the Rainy Day Fund.

Joanna Heidel asked Dr. Ray if the SBCJC had researched areas where charges could be made for services provided by the SBCJC to generate additional funding. Dr. Ray responded that charging for some services would require legislative authority. Lawrence Warren discussed the current economic recession through the eyes of a private business owner and stated that the situation would probably get worse before it gets better. He stated that the events of September 11, 2001, have made people more cautious in spending during a time that is traditionally the best tax revenue collection period.

Status of Goals for FY 2002

Dr. Olon Ray updated the Board on efforts to develop a system that will provide a reliable statewide method of scoring GED examinations. The Oklahoma Scoring Center has been selected to score all the GED examinations beginning in January 2002. Utilizing their system will allow a faster turn around time for examination scores.

Dr. Ray reported that SBCJC staff members are continuing to work with the colleges to develop on-line workforce and community based training classes. SBCJC staff interviewed three different vendors that offer on-line commercial non-credit courses. Most of the courses offered

SBCJC Minutes: October 26, 2001

by the vendors are computer-training programs. SBCJC staff members are working with representatives of the MACJC to review this program to assure that duplication of services offered through the colleges does not happen.

Dr. Ray reported that the revisions of the guidelines for calculation of funding for MSVCC students have been approved and presented to the MACJC. The SBCJC will begin implementation of the guidelines this year.

Dr. Ray stated that the Board approved the Revised Guidelines and Funding Structure for Off-Campus Sites at the last meeting. Since that time the guidelines have been distributed and college personnel advised of the implementation schedule. SBCJC staff has updated the location designations for the colleges.

Lastly, Dr. Ray reported on the SBCJC goal related to development and implementation of an electronic audit procedure. Dr. Evelyn Webb reported that the computer equipment needed to implement the e-audit program has been ordered and will be delivered shortly. She stated that a demonstration of the system would be presented for the Board at a future meeting.

Consideration of Policies and Procedures

Dr. Olon Ray presented a written procedure for special called SBCJC meetings for the Board's action. Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve the SBCJC Special Called Meeting Procedure (Exhibit F).

EdNet Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb distributed a copy of an EdNet report and discussed items on the October 15, 2001, agenda (Exhibit G).

The meeting began with a celebration of the FCC recent ruling in favor of EdNet and other ITFS licensees in their decision to not reallocate the frequencies for other use. The action gives the SBCJC and other licensees a clear title to the channels for years to come. This action will make the licenses more attractive to commercial entities that may entertain a public/private relationship with EdNet. EdNet will now be able to reach its goal of taking education into all areas of Mississippi by alternate means.

EdNet and license staff members are continuing to refine the RFP that will be used to solicit new private partner(s). ITS staff has reviewed the document and provided input. Representatives from each licensee have been involved in reviewing and providing changes for the document.

EdNet's royalty payment increased this month to \$15,927.00.

The BIA Financial Group was retained by EdNet to assess the value of the channels for commercial use. This would provide an estimated worth of the system that could be used during the evaluation of proposals submitted in response to the RFP. BIA provided EdNet with a preliminary report and the Board agreed to keep it confidential, so as not to jeopardize EdNet's marketability during upcoming negotiations.

SBCJC Minutes: October 26, 2001

EdNet's attorneys continue to work with WorldCom to try and settle the existing agreement. As soon as a settlement is reached EdNet, will proceed in obtaining a new private partner.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for October 31, 2001, from funds 3295, 4080, and 4110, in the total amount of \$2,582,734.00 (Exhibit H).

Mrs. Fox presented the Quarterly Capital Improvements Report for the Board's review (Exhibit I). No action was required.

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve a request from Coahoma Community College to utilize SB 3158 Capital Improvement funds (Exhibit J).

Mrs. Fox presented financial statements for funds 2291 and 3291 for the period ending September 30, 2001 (Exhibit K). No action was required.

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the payment to Walden Institute in the amount of \$31,365.00 for Certified On-Line Instructor Program Training Courses (Exhibit L).

Approval of Location for Classes for Fall Semester

Due to the unfortunate incidents that occurred on September 11, 2001, the commander of Columbus Air Force Base notified East Mississippi Community College that they could no longer use the Base Education Building to offer classes. Dr. Evelyn Webb presented a request from East Mississippi Community College President, Dr. Tommy Davis, to relocate the classes that were approved for the Columbus Air Force Base location to Columbus High School and the campus of the Mississippi University for Women for the remainder of the semester. Upon staff recommendation, a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to add the campus of the Mississippi University for Women as an off-campus site for East Mississippi Community College. Columbus High School had been previously approved as a site.

Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher gave a report on the Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration (CPSCR). Currently 33 schools at 101 locations are licensed under the CPSCR. During the October 18, 2001, meeting 26 new instructor applications and 31 agent applications were approved. One new program of study, Human Resource Management, was approved for Virginia College. Certificates of Registration were approved for MTA Schools of Flowood, MS Carriers of Memphis and DSC Training Academy of Jackson. The CPSCR approved a request from Computer Technology and Application Lab of Jackson to cancel its Certificate of Registration, inasmuch as they are now only doing computer repair.

SBCJC Minutes: October 26, 2001

Dr. Stonecypher distributed a listing of currently licensed proprietary schools for the Board's information (Exhibit M).

MSVCC Report

Jason Pugh gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Mississippi Virtual Community College (Exhibit N). The enrollment for Fall 2001 is 8,119 and as of this week there is an 80% student retention rate. He reported that instructor participation was up this semester with 250 instructors actively teaching courses. The Fall Semester offered 135 different courses. The course offerings are now available on the MSVCC for a student to receive an Associates Degree. A few days before the semester began the MSVCC had the capacity to enroll 7,500 but within the last week of registration the colleges were flexible and opened additional class sections to accommodate 8,119 students.

Mr. Pugh pointed out that January would be the beginning of the third year of operation for the MSVCC. The unduplicated headcount for the Fall Semester was 4,781. This data indicates that students are enrolling in multiple courses.

Mr. Pugh shared information gained from the student surveys. The survey goes into depth about specifics of evaluation services and courses. He stated that nowhere in the results of the surveys complied was there a decrease in satisfaction. He also reported that 76% of the respondents indicated that they would not have or probably would not have participated in a traditional college course.

Mr. Pugh shared comments that were posted on the MSVCC message boards showing appreciation for the opportunity to further their education by taking on-line courses.

Mr. Pugh also discussed the Walden Institute's Certified On-Line Instructor Training Program that the Board approved funding for today. Forty-five MSVCC faculty will be trained through the Institute. He reported that the community colleges are helping each other with training. He specifically praised Hinds Community College for sharing training with Northwest Mississippi Community College.

He briefly discussed the efforts to obtain SACs accreditation as a statewide distance learning system. During the process thirteen of the community and junior colleges will have to undergo a substantive change visit possibly as early as a year from now. He discussed actions of a committee to ensure that proper plans are made to ensure success and obtain accreditation for the system. Mr. Pugh discussed the on-line repository for transcripts showing the credentials for on-line instructions that will be held on the MSVCC registration base. He praised SBCJC employee, Iye Burnett for the development of the repository.

Mr. Pugh also discussed the process SBCJC staff is following to provide on-line training programs for workforce training. He urged the Board to visit the MSVCC website.

Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Lawrence

SBCJC Minutes: October 26, 2001

Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:


George Walker for attending a Governor's Commission on Education Committee Meeting on October 29, and the SWDC meeting on November 14, 2001, both in Jackson.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



George Walker, Chairman



Olon E. Ray, Executive Director